

Suicide suspected in A-10 crash

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Air Combat Command has released the Accident Investigation Board report of the April 2 crash of an A-10 near Eagle, Colo., that killed its pilot, Capt. Craig Button. The Oct. 27 report concludes that — for undetermined reasons and lack of credible evidence to the contrary — the pilot apparently committed suicide by crashing his aircraft into the side of a mountain.

The A-10, assigned to the 355th Wing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., was part of a three-ship formation on a routine training mission to familiarize pilots with the delivery of live ordnance on a bombing range. The mishap aircraft was carrying four, 500-pound conventional bombs and 575 rounds of 30 mm training ammunition.

Just before the formation reached the range, the flight leader directed a formation change to allow all aircraft an opportunity to perform updates of their bombing computers in preparation for range entry. Button was directed to assume a pre-briefed position about 9,000 feet behind the lead aircraft. As the other aircraft maneuvered to their positions, Button's disappeared from sight.

Analysis of flight path information provided by ground and airborne radar systems, and many visual sightings by people along the flight path, indicate Button flew his A-10 from central Arizona to central Colorado, about 495 miles from where he departed the training formation. His aircraft crashed 15 miles southeast of Eagle, Colo., just below the summit of the 13,100-foot-high Gold Dust Peak.

The AIB report concludes that the cause of the crash was suicide. In the opinion of the board investigating officer, Col. Philip J. Frazee, "Based on all available evidence, it is my opinion that, for unknown reasons, the mishap pilot spontaneously elected to leave his briefed formation, consciously flew the aircraft to Colorado and committed suicide by impacting the terrain while in controlled flight."

Gen. Richard E. Hawley, ACC commander, agreed with Frazee's conclusion.

"I reluctantly concur that the most probable cause of Captain Button's death was his inexplicable decision to commit suicide," said Hawley.

"There is insufficient clear and convincing

evidence to determine with certainty why a skilled pilot and fine officer departed formation flight and flew his aircraft to Colorado," Hawley said. "There is also insufficient evidence to rule out, totally, some presently unknown medical explanation for his actions.

"However, in the absence of other evidence, it appears that the investigating officer has identified the most likely cause for this air crash and death."

Aircraft malfunction was ruled out as a potential cause of this incident. In Frazee's opinion, "All indications are that the aircraft was fully functional. Simultaneous system failures necessary for this incident to be strictly aircraft related are beyond the realm of possibility."

The board report also ruled out partial and total pilot incapacitation as a cause of this incident.

"Radar tracks and reports from numerous witnesses reveal the aircraft was maneuvering through high terrain along the route, changing altitude and heading on numerous occasions. The limitations of the A-10 autopilot would not support the heading-altitude demonstrated"

Furthermore, Frazee said, "The assumption that Button was cognizant enough to avoid mountainous terrain while flying the aircraft, but was too disoriented to simply orbit his aircraft and radio for assistance, is medically unreasonable."

The Accident Investigation Board also ruled out premeditated theft of the aircraft and premeditated suicide as causes, saying that there was no evidence of motive or flight planning to support either one.

"If his intent was to steal the aircraft, it is reasonable to assume he would have extensively planned the mission and we have no evidence of that," according to Frazee.

The report also concludes there is a lack of substantive evidence to support the theory that this incident was a result of premeditated suicide. Where there are circumstantial indicators that Button was under increased stress and potentially upset over personal matters — the specifics which have not been determined — there was "no note or other overt warnings or signs, no closure on personal affairs, and no psychological signs, which would range from depression to resolution that the decision had to be made.

"All indication from personnel who spoke with



Web site offers family support information

Question: *I am getting ready to leave on a permanent change-of-station move. The last time I moved, I remember getting a folder from the family support center with information on the base and local area. Where can I get this type of information?*

Answer: You can always visit the family support center for information; however, there is also a web site called FAMNET Crossroads at <http://www.famnet.com/>. Crossroads provides an easy one-stop process for locating a particular military installation within a state or overseas country.

For each location, information is available on: The installation and community; base housing, real estate and rentals; children and relocation; schools and child care; child and teen services; base relocation services; medical and dental facilities; and local-area web sites.

Relocation information is only the beginning of what is available on FAMNET Crossroads. Other types of information available include Defense Department schools; emergency financial assistance; locators (military, veterans, federal government); military associations; people missing in action or prisoners of war; or teens and youths. Contact your family support center for more information.

him on the date of the incident indicate he was enthused and excited about his first live drop mission and that he displayed no signs of suicidal tendencies."

Moreover, the Office of Special Investigations found no evidence of drug or alcohol abuse, and HIV tests were negative.

Widnall sends farewell message to Air Force

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — *The following is a farewell message from Secretary of the Air Force Sheila Widnall:*

To the Men and Women of the United States Air Force

Now that my tour of duty is up and I prepare to transition back to academic life, I want to tell each one of you what a fantastic tour I have had as your secretary.

Today as you read this, I want to be clear in my message — the Air Force's enlisted and officer corps and the civilian workforce have made the last four years the most rewarding of my professional life.

As a youngster, I dreamed of being a part of the aviation world. As most of you are aware, my dreams became a reality at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). However, as a child I had no idea as I watched B-29s fly over my house in

Washington state that I would someday be the secretary of the mighty force those B-29 crews belonged to — the United States Air Force!

Millions of men and women have served in "Air Force Blue" since that time. Through it all, the one human quality that stands out both yesterday and today in all of you is that quality we call commitment: commitment to the Air Force team, commitment to our core values, commitment to the mission. Commitment of people in its many forms has allowed the Air Force to exist and flourish as the world's preeminent air and space force.

In my travels I have witnessed this commitment. Whether in the desert, at Aviano (Air Base, Italy), Kunsan (AB, Korea), or Minot (Air Force Base, N.D.) — I have seen it. It is at the Air Force Academy and Basic

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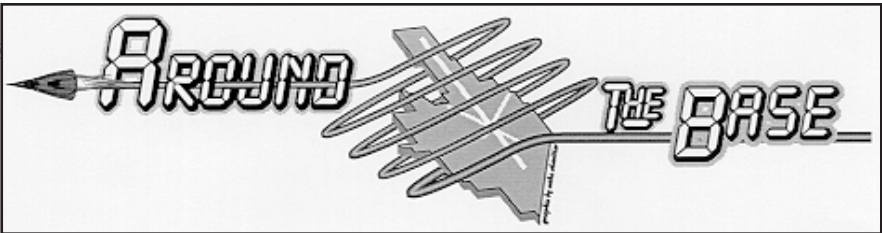


U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Angela Stafford

Secretary of the Air Force Sheila E. Widnall makes a final inspection of the troops. The formation of the Air Force Band and the Air Force Honor Guard gathered during a ceremony and tribute to Widnall on the Field of Honor at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C., Oct. 24. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan and Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen presided over the ceremony and tribute to Widnall, and her husband, Dr. Bill Widnall, as they complete their service and return to academia at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Aircraft Management Directorate

Jo Ann Williams



William J. Brokop
Certificate of Achievement
(Completion of CDCs and three-day pass): Airman Daniel r. Crawford, Jr.

Quarterly Award Winners: Master Sgt. Nancy K. Thompson (SNCO), Staff Sgt. M. Colleen Campbell (NCO) and Senior Ebony A. Lee (AMN) received certificates of appreciation.

LI (Commodities)

Marian Jude

Suggestion Award

John M. Latham, LIANC, recently received \$2,385 for a suggestion he submitted on Three Axis Rate Sensor Disposal. This suggestion was approved by the Department of the Army. The reason for the change is to allow any serviceable gyro package to be removed from “F” condition asset.. It was estimated that a minimum of \$56,152 would be saved.

77th Air Base Wing/Logistics

Anastasia Dixon

Recognition

Lt. Aaron Allen, support of the Company Grade Officers Council for Capehart Housing restoration project.

Tech. Sgt. Ross Mendoza, ranked in the 85 percentile, 7 Level Specialty Knowledge Test.

Staff Sgt. Alford Almario, ranked in the 94 percentile, 7 Level End of Course Test.

Ray Collingsworth, earned 30-Year Service Pin.

Debi Frech, Carole Gallimore and Nancy Challand, training of Defense Logistic Agency personnel in Inventory Management.

Linda Bahn, supply assistance for the Base Closure Office.

Sandy Thornton, Ray Collingsworth, Stephanie Solomon, Nova Brown, Staff Sgt. Gary Krahne, and Senior Airman Alford Almario for working the End-of-Year close out and assisting tenant organization.

Quarterly Awards

Staff Sgt. Anette Negron, NCO of the Quarter - LGS.

Airman First Class Michael Vargas, Airman of the Quarter - LGT.

Senior Airman Tracy Huyck, Airman of the Quarter - LGS.

Promotion

Tom Sanderson, GS-12, Systems Support Section

New Arrivals

Monita McCowan - Equipment Management Unit

Sandy Thornton - Funds and Administration Section

Gerald Perrish - Systems Support Section
Rene Canuel - Equipment Management Unit

Norita Conerly - Inventory Management Unit

Personnel

Colonel (Select) Thomas Brown is the new LAF A-10/F-111 System Program Director.

Maj. Mitch Valder was recently selected as the LAR Program Control Division Chief and is working in that position. Phil Steinke has been selected as the LAR Deputy Program Control Division Chief.

Promotion

To Lt. Col. Maj. Keith Vraa

Recognition

Jimmy Mays, LAPET, and the LAFS financial management team of Judy Carlisle, Bob Trevino, and Sandy Canga (who now works in LH) were voted as LA’s Best of the Best for the third quarter of 1997.

Ed Clavet, LAFVF, and Richard Small, LAFMM, were presented 40-year service certificates and pins by the SM-ALC Commander, Maj. Gen. Eugene L. Tattini.

Awards

Dave Mettler, LATB, Flo Millican, LATA, and Art Sommers, LATC, were awarded Exemplary Civilian Service Awards by the SM-ALC Vice Commander, Brig. Gen. Michael Wiedemer, for their outstanding acquisition program work in the F-22 Logistics Support Division.

The Washrack team took first place on the coed softball tournament at the 1997 McClellan Day Fair. Their hard-earned trophy is on display at the Washrack. The LA team members were Ray Lucas, Judy Bush, Bill Buchanan, Mike Wright, Ray Franklin, Steve Tennell, and Matt Tennell, all of LAPHAC; Jeff Kahlor, LAPRT; Phil Salaber, LAPHAP; and Cecil Little, LAPHCD. The team attributes their win to the excellent coaching skills of Ray Lucas.

Carter Haynes, LAPSBG, and Ronald Eves, LAPSBB, were awarded \$3,187 each for their suggestion, Aerial Refueling Boom Movement. They were recently presented their suggestion award certificates by the SM-ALC Vice Commander, Brig. Gen. Michael Wiedemer, in an awards ceremony in Bldg 251.

Tech Operations Division

1st Lt. Teresa L. Suh

Awards

Air Force Commendation Medal: Senior Airman Thomas G. Willhight Jr. the. Senior Air Force Achievement Medal (First Oak Leaf Cluster) Airman David N. Dunn

Communications and Information Professionalism Award: Staff Sergeant Dorothea M. Miller and Airman First Class John G. Frisch

Promotion

To Senior Master Sgt. Master Sgt. Romulo M. Maulino

To Master Sergeants: Tech.I Sergeants Theodore T. Noonchester Jr., Barry A. Suber, and Micheal A. Tanner.

To Staff Sgt. Senior Airman Allen D. Bohart Jr.

To Senior Airman Airman First Class John G. Frisch

To Airman First Class Airmen Joseph A. Kutz and Eric L. Sanchez

Recogiton

Mid-Level Civilian of the Quarter 1 April-30 June 1997: Minh P. Tompkins Ten-Year Certificate of Service: Donald H. Kelly:

77th Communication Squadron

John Ellis

Air Force Meritorious Service Medals: Master Sgt. Stephen S. Yang (First Oak Leaf Cluster), Master Sgt. Robert S.Tanquay (Second Oak Leaf Cluster), Staff Sgt. Tina D. Black (Third Oak Leaf Cluster), Master Sgt. Michael J. Helms and Staff Sgt. Brain C. Kentta (Basic).

Air Force Achievement Medals: Staff Sgt. Timothy T. Deuell (First Oak Leaf Cluster) and Senior Airman Bryan P. Stokes, Staff Sgt. Donald B. Busbice, Jr. and Senior Airman Angela M. Wright (Baisc).

Good Conduct Medals: Senior Airmen Alison R. Lazell and Nathan D. Wilder.

John L. Levitow Award: Senior Airman Jason M. Megna, Airman Leadership School Promotion

To Master Sgt. Ernesto M. Martin

To Tech. Sgt. Andre E. Boudriault

To Staff Sgt. Sabrina Robertson

To Senior Airmen Charlie A. Helton and Nathan D. Wilder

To Airman First Class Laura L. Vanadium Recognition

Letters of Appreciation (Honor Guard Members): Senior Airmen Dawn Jackson, James Felts, Paul Parinello, Ebony Lee, and Air First Class Solghen Woodard

Letters of Appreciation (1997 Special Olympics Northern Calif. Summer Games): Tech. Sgt. Cynthia Ingram, Staff Sgt. Donald Alexander and Douglas Duncan, Senior Airmen Donald Howell and Milton Symister, Airmen First Class Lianna Fitzpatrick, Jessica Guadalupe, Leigh McCombs, Barry Turk and Ron Aliva, Airman Anthony Sowinski

Letters of Appreciation (EEO Office): Senior Airman Olivia Kohlieber and Ms. Amy Zannakis

Letters of Congratulations (Promotion to Staff Sergeant): William T. Higgins, Alexamder Martinelli, Aldo S. Adams, David D. Windham and Sabrina Robertson.

Suggestion Award (Certificate): Staff Sgt.

as a government employee to further personal political agendas. If you have questions about the appropriateness of a specific political activity, contact your base legal office.

This election day in Sacramento County, there will be three bond measures on the ballot: one in Elverta, one in North Sacramento and one in Folsom-Cordova.

I encourage everyone to fully participate in the democratic process, but be aware of and follow the rules for federal employees. Taking part in the election on Nov. 4 is your chance to help deter-

mine the future direction of our country, state and municipality and ensures our form of government continues to thrive.

Abraham Lincoln assured his contemporaries that a democracy “will not perish from the face of the Earth.” Our democracy will be its strongest when each and every one of us casts a vote.

For more voting information, call McClellan’s voting action officer, 1st Lt. John D. Disebastian, at 643-6005. Another good resource is the Federal Voting Assistance Program homepage at www.fvap.gov.

VOTING

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absentee ballot.

As federal employees, we are in a unique position with regard to our elected officials. Both tradition and directives have established the military as a politically neutral organization. To maintain this neutrality, we must adhere to some special guidelines as we support our candidate of choice.

The bottom line is we must not use our position

Movies now showing at the base theater

Mimic - Oct. 31

Mira Sorvino, Jermy Northam - A couple of scientists use genetic engineering to save New York from a deadly disease. But their genetic dabbling leads to the threat of annihilation for Gotham's populace when something beneath the city begins to mimic the most dangerous predator of all humans. R (terror/violence and language). 102 minutes.

Wes Craven's Wishmaster - Nov. 1

Robert Englund, Kane Hodder - Inside an ancient opal lies a genie who is ready to grant your every wish in ways your worst nightmares could have never imagined. A jewelry appraiser unwittingly releases the malevolent genie upon discovering the ancient opal. R (horror, violence, gore and language). 90 minutes

Masterminds - Nov. 2

Patrick Stewart, Vicent Kartheiser - A ruthless security consultant takes over an elite prep school and takes the entire student body hostage. Armed

with his wits, a talent for pranks and a two-way radio, 14-year old Ozzie engages in a battle to outwit the thugs. PG-13 (violence included in a children hostage situation, language). 106 minutes.



All movies start at 7 p.m.

Youth Center

Today: Open recreation, 2-8 p.m.; open gym, 2-3 p.m. and 4-8 p.m.; snack bar, 2-6 p.m.; advanced gymnastics 3-4 p.m.

Tomorrow: Open recreation 2-6:30 p.m.; open gym, 2-6:30 p.m.; snack bar, 2-6:30 p.m.; Skate night, grades K-3, \$2.75 per member; \$3.75 per guest.

Saturday: Open recreation, noon-8 p.m.; open gym, noon-8 p.m.; snack bar, noon-7 p.m.; Charlie Brown and Snoopy's Birthday 1-2:30 p.m. Grades K-3. \$2 per member, \$3 per guest. Sign up by Oct. 10.

Sunday: Closed.

Monday: Open recreation, 2-8 p.m.; open gym, 2-3 p.m. and 4-8 p.m. snack bar, 2-6 p.m.; children's martial arts, 6-8 p.m.

Tuesday: Open recreation, 2-8 p.m.; open gym, 2-3 p.m. and 4-8 p.m.; snack bar, 2-6 p.m.; beginning gymnastics, 3-4 p.m. Children's piano lessons 4-8 p.m. Couple's communication class. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Sign up with family advocacy at 643-1518.

Wednesday: Open recreation, 2-8 p.m.; open gym, 2-8 p.m.; snack bar, 2-6 p.m.

Office hours for all registration: Mon.-Fri. from 1-7 p.m.

Basketball registration Oct. 1-15. \$40 per member. \$45 per non-member. Cheerleading registration Oct. 1-15. \$30 per member, \$35 per non-member.

Rafferty Hall

Ticket sales are Mon.-Fri. (excluding holidays), 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Sundays and holidays. *No refunds, no returns.* For details, call 643-2259/3082.

These are the new operating hours for I.T.T. office:

11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturdays

Closed Sundays and Holidays.

Tickets on sale:

Disneyland 5-flex passes

Universal Studios

Knotts Berry Farm

Marine World Africa U.S.A.

Scandia Wristbands (all day)

Winchester Mystery House

Bed and breakfast books

United Artists VIP movie passes

Monterey Bay Aquarium and more....

Upcoming van trips: All van trips are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children.

* Discount tickets can be purchased at the I.T.T. office inside Rafferty Hall. Register today!

BABBITT

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and I got paid for it. And when I added up the cost to do the work, it was equal to or less than the revenue I earned for doing that C-5.”

“The funds flow from the customer through the buyer and when the products delivered to the depot maintenance organization—not down from the headquarters.”

“In my mind, this process works the same for all depot maintenance. I really don’t think we’re too far off the mark in depot maintenance, but it’s important that we emphasize that we are committed to do work for the price quoted.”

“It’s the product director who’s responsible in the DMAG for executing the program for the price that was quoted, that’s the key person. And for all our depot maintenance workload we ought to know who that is. For each workload, who’s accountable to make sure the work gets done in a quality timely fashion on cost.”

In year’s past, the scope of work would go up, but not the price charged for that work. This caused a perception problem about the cost of depot maintenance and why it changed from year to year to recoup this unprogrammed cost.

“The only way you can make that point clear is when the scope of work changes, you immediately negotiate a change in scope with the customer and the customer immediately pays for the increased scope—immediately, not next year, not two years hence. Now that’s a change, but that’s a very familiar

Sports at a glance

•Weightlifting contest to be held

A bench press and deadlift contest will be held at the Talbot Fitness Center Nov. 8. Weight in begins at 9 am. Weigh in stops at 10 a.m. No exceptions. Bench press contest begins at 11 a.m. Deadlift contest begins immediately after the bench press contest ends. The contests will end at 2 p.m.

Contest is open to all military members and their family members age 16 or older. All participants will receive a T- shirt. For more information, contact Millie Stefani, 643-2596 or Master Sgt. Larry Williams, or Tech. Sgt. Curtis Jennings, 643-1099.



•CGOC crud tournament

The Company Grade Officers' Council will sponsor the first ever All-McClellan Crud Tournament, Nov. 14 at 4:30. Teams will consist of five members and a \$10 entry fee per team is required. Each team will be competing for honor, respect and most importantly—a cash prize.

Rules for the tournament and a schedule of Crud lessons will be published later in the *Spacemaker*. The tournament is open to all eligible patrons of the Officers' Club. Please submit your team and entry fee to Lt. Ron Cheatham, 77 MSS/CCQ, bottom floor of Bldg. 7, 643-2203, by Nov. 12.

•Youth Center goes to the game

The Youth Center will be going to the Bay Area to see the Oakland Raiders play the Miami Dolphins Nov. 30. The cost is \$51 for tickets with free transportation. Money is needed at the Youth Center by Nov. 21. The game is a family event. However, 9th and 12th graders can go to the game without their family.

For more information, call 643-2074.

change for those of you that manage contract depot maintenance. Contract depot maintenance works exactly the same way and so does organic maintenance.”

“When we go to this method, we’re still going to have to lean forward to accomplish the mission. You can’t do work that’s outside the scope, incur a loss and then come and complain about it. This approach doesn’t mean we’re

going to poke a stick in our customer’s eye, but if there’s a change in scope of work, the customer has to pay right now on this airplane for this work.”

“The budget is really the revenue you earn from sales. The only source of funds is from the sales you generate. Our goal is that costs should not exceed revenue. This is just good business.”

MSS nips CE for football championship

Three hard-fought battles between these two teams led to well-deserved championship

1st Lt. John S. Hutcheson
SM-ALC Public Affairs

In probably one of the closest championship football games in McClellan history, the 77th Mission Support Squadron narrowly defeated the 77th Civil Engineer Group 2-0 on the strength of a freak play late in the first half.

The game, played at Shoppette Memorial Stadium on Oct. 23, was the third and final

meeting between MSS and CE during the five-team double elimination playoff series, and proved to be a defensive struggle all the way.

Amid the roar of the crowds gathered to cheer on their squadrons on, the high powered offenses of both teams proved unable to punch it into the end zone, and the game remained scoreless through the better part of the first half.

A tough goal line stand late in the half by a vivacious CE defense forced a turnover on

downs at CE's own 2 yard line. When CE took over on offense, quarterback Tony English watched helplessly on the first snap as the football sailed over his head into the end zone for a safety. Those two points proved to be all MSS needed, as their defense continued to

play inspired football.

Tough defense at crucial points in the game helped stifle the CE offense and ensured the champions held on to their precious two-point lead.

"Our offense wasn't really hitting on all cylinders today, and their defense was playing great," said Ron Cheatham, MSS coach. "But our defense really came through for us and we had a little luck on our side as well."

The road to the championship wasn't easy, and MSS had to face CE in two other playoff games before finally winning the brass ring. In the first round, MSS stole one 7-0 on the strength of a Mike Coller touchdown pass to Vern Mullis. When the two teams met again in the first championship game on Oct. 21, MSS snatched defeat from the jaws of victory by letting CE drive down the field with time running out and the score tied. CE kicker Jay Guyer booted a 38 yard field goal with no time left on the clock for the victory, 10-7.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Capt. Robert Gonzales

From left: Kevin Howard, Vern Mullis, Alex Butler and Dan Marine each take a swipe at CE quarterback Tony English's flags as they force him out of the pocket.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Capt. Robert Gonzales

Jesus "Speedy" Alcares speeds his way down the field while CE rusher Ryan Goodson attempts to catch up to him.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Capt. Robert Gonzales

CE defender Trevor Elsen (diving) forces MSS quarterback Michael Coller to scramble. Enrique Jones, left, looks to receive a pitch while Tony Vengel and Fred Jones, right provide backfield blocking.

E-MAIL

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(a.k.a. junk mail) from vendors. Did you know that when you surf on the net you leave your address at each site you visit? Vendors then sell these addresses to advertisers or they respond directly back to you. Remember, visiting a web site always leaves your called card.

Treat your email like a piece of paper. If you wouldn't send a memo with your name on it to everyone on base, why would you do so with an email? Your email could end up being advertised on "60 Minutes" next week—better make sure it is appropriate. Also, did you really intend that the video clip with the wrestler and the horse you sent on the email to eventually get sent to Maj. Gen. Eugene L. Tattini? It has your name as the person who passed it on. Think about it.

Know which button is the reply to all button. There are two reply buttons on most email programs. One is reply to sender. The other is reply to all. Know the difference. "Reply to all" sends an email back to everyone who received the initial message. The result frequently is high volume traffic on the network. Know the difference and send your mail properly.

Only use email for official use. You

can get detention or be expelled from the secret think tank if you mess around sending inappropriate emails. Email is official correspondence. Just like the telephones, the computer networks are subject to monitoring and inappropriate use of government resources is just plain wrong. You are responsible for your professionalism and personal conduct. Remember our core values every time you log on. Keep it official.

Cut down on carbon copies. Send your messages only to those who need to see them

Know how to give expression to your messages. A wink is .). Something you are happy about is ☺. A frown is ☹. Warm regards (given to subordinates and peers) is W/R. Very respectfully (given to superiors) is V/R. You can add the personal touch just by adding these and other simple additions.

And the simplest rule. A few words in person or over the phone may be more effective.

By following these easy rules, we can make our networks and email systems more efficient and effective. We'll keep you posted on further secret think tanks developments as we get them. If you need help with your network computing, please call our help desk at 643-4843. We're here to help!



The Air Force's world-renowned Tops In Blue traveling music showcase is scheduled to perform at the Sacramento Community Convention Center Theater, 1301 L Street, Nov. 29 at 7 p.m. for one performance only. Doors open at 6 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. Tickets are not required. Shuttle buses will provide transportation for base personnel, the schedule will be posted in future editions of the *Spacemaker*. For more information, call Master Sgt. Carla Bayerl at 643-6660.

FIRE

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rekindles occurred later that evening—the first at 7:12 p.m. and the last at 8:53 p.m. The fire was completely extinguished at 1:50 a.m., Oct. 8.

The plating shop was undergoing a \$23 million renovation to the ventilation tunnels below the shop. The military construction project is administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The plating shop encompasses about 35,000 square feet and holds 202 process tanks filled with chemical process solutions and water.

The contractor is conducting an independent investigation into the fire. Once the contractor's investigation is complete, clean-up of the smoke and water damage will begin. The clean-up should take between five to six days.

Damaged ducts from the phos anodize and phos coat tanks will be replaced and should take about three to four days to repair.

Officials are hopeful operations to include chrome, phos anodize, phos coat and chemical milling could resume in about three weeks.

The base currently has a contract with local vendors to support existing workloads to chrome plate hydraulic components used in aircraft. The phos anodize and coat work has been sent to the Ogden Air Logistics Center at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, until the McClellan phos anodize plating shop goes back on-line.

Phos anodize and coat affects any materials needing composite work such as Mobile Erectable Rigid Wall Shelters, used for field command posts; some composite aircraft panels used on the EF-111; and A-10 engine inlet rings.

About 19 people worked in the metal plating shop, building 243G. These employees have been dispersed to work in other duty areas unaffected by the fire.

WIDNALL

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Military Training. It is on the flightline at Travis (AFB, Calif.) and the Space Warfare Center at Falcon (Air Station, Colo.). Most recently I saw it in the faces and actions of the Thunderbirds' crew chiefs and life support technicians as they prepared me for my "finis flight" at Edwards (AFB, Calif.) earlier this month.

Many reasons for this commitment exist — patriotism, pride, belonging, personal integrity, knowing that what you are doing makes a difference —these are just a few. Whatever the reasons, I thank heaven they exist —for the sake of the Air Force and our nation.

I am also well aware that the contemporary military missions that we are carrying out in the national interest have been very stressing. With the highest taskings seen during peacetime, I have asked you to conduct and support operations in Southwest Asia, Bosnia, and Africa and you have performed flawlessly.

These contemporary military missions have created many new challenges and I commend you for reaching down deep to pull them off with innovation and style. I firmly believe that while we are putting up with many frustrations and irritants in dealing with these missions, we are writing new chapters in the conduct of Air Force and joint military operations.

While we do not know what the future will bring, we will learn lessons in Southwest Asia, in Bosnia, in Africa and all those other places where we may become involved, that will one day provide the foundation we depend upon to pull the nation out of the fire of a war.

I have had the time of my life flying in formation with all of you. I thank you and your families for your unwavering support. I also thank your families for their commitment and

support of you and the Air Force. When I came in as secretary and traveled to bases I heard comments like, "We're glad you came to the Air Force." Now as I leave, I want to tell you that I'm very glad I came to the Air Force and I'm very proud to have been on your team. Continue your climb higher, farther, and faster!

Some of my feelings about you, the men and women of our Air Force, are typified by this letter sent by a parent, somewhat tongue in cheek, to the Air Force Recruiting Service:

"Our son gave us nothing but trouble starting at age 13. We didn't think he would graduate from high school. When he announced that he was enlisting in the Air Force, I said to myself, 'If they take him, he'll be home in a month.'

"They DID take him! But I shook every time the phone rang. Then, one day, we did get a phone call from Lackland (AFB, Texas). He had graduated from boot camp, had a furlough and was coming home for a few days.

"I was stunned when our handsome young airman got off the plane —neatly barbered, perfectly groomed, grinning ear to ear. We still can't get used to all the 'Yes, sirs' and 'No, sirs' around the house. His table manners are flawless.

"His mother and I wanted to let you know that, if this is our son, thank you not only for what you have done, but also for what you have done to him. If there has been a mistake, and this is not really our son, can we keep him anyway?"

This is the way I feel about you. I still can't get used to the "Yes, ma'ams" and the occasional "Yes, sir." But, if there has been a mistake, and you are not really my brothers and sisters, my sons and daughters, can I keep you anyway? Dr. Bill and I wish you all the best. God bless you all.